

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 2226 - SB 2210**

February 19, 2016

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Creates a three-year volunteer firefighter training incentive pilot program for the purpose of awarding individual volunteer firefighters a grant for completing such training and to evaluate the effectiveness of such a program. Requires the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) to develop and manage this pilot program in conjunction with the Commission on Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education, the Tennessee Fire Chief's Association, and the Tennessee Fireman's Association. Limits the annual number of pilot program participants to 1,250 firefighters each year from no more than 25 recognized fire departments.

Defines "recognized fire departments" as an organization operating as a fire department which is formally recognized by the SFMO pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-102-303. Requires the organizations selected to represent a cross section, in geographic location, size, and type of departments of the fire service in Tennessee. Only departments which are located in cities or counties, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-24-112, are required to meet the minimum firefighter training requirements to be eligible to participate in this pilot program.

Any recognized fire department participating in this pilot program shall receive an annual grant of \$600 from the Commission for each volunteer firefighter who completes the pilot program requirements, and shall disburse the full amount of the grant to each individual volunteer firefighter who satisfied the program's requirements. Requires the SFMO to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program after the program's conclusion. The SFMO is authorized to make recommendations for the implementation of a volunteer firefighting incentive program for all volunteer firefighters. For purposes of developing the program, this proposed legislation shall become effective upon becoming law. For all other purposes, an effective date of November 1, 2016. This pilot program shall be repealed on June 30, 2020.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures - \$757,300/FY16-17/Fund 11-Supplies Account  
\$759,700/FY17-18/Fund 11-Supplies Account  
\$759,700/FY18-19/Fund 11-Supplies Account  
\$759,700/FY19-20/Fund 11-Supplies Account**

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Assumptions:

- An effective date of November 1, 2016. The program will be repealed on June 30, 2020; therefore, this program will begin in FY16-17 and continue through FY19-20.
- Currently, the Division of Fire Prevention is not operating any type of incentive program for firefighters, professional or volunteer.
- The Department of Commerce and Insurance (TDCI), in conjunction with the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) and the Commission on Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education can develop this training program utilizing existing resources during normal work hours.
- The SFMO anticipates a total of 1,250 volunteer firefighters will meet the requirements as established by the SFMO and participate in this pilot program each year, thereby becoming eligible for the \$600 grant.
- It is assumed that the participating firefighters will complete all requirements of the Pilot Program within the remaining 8 months of FY16-17; therefore, such firefighters will be eligible for the full \$600 in FY16-17; and then additional firefighters will be eligible for the \$600 payment in each of the following fiscal years: FY17-18, FY18-19, and FY19-20. Therefore, the increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$750,000 (1,250 firefighters x \$600) each year of the program.
- Based on information from the SFMO, a temporary administrative assistant 1 position will be required for approximately 600 hours in FY16-17 and approximately \$800 per year in the remaining years to help coordinate and disburse payments for this grant program.
- An hourly rate of \$12.13 for the temporary administrative assistant 1 position.
- According to the TDCI, all expenses will be funded from the department's Fund 11-supplies account.
- The increase in state expenditures in FY16-17 is estimated to be \$757,278 [\$750,000 + (\$12.13 x 600 hours)].
- The increase in state expenditures in each fiscal year FY17-18 through FY19-20 is estimated to be \$759,704 [\$750,000 + (\$12.13 x 800 hours)].

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/jdb